What is copyright?
Copyright is a legal right that protects fixed creative works such as books, journals, letters, notes, images, drawings, musical works, films, sound recordings, computer code. In the UK it is governed by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. It is one of a suite of intellectual property rights that includes patents, trademarks, designs rights, and confidential information and know-how.

Copyright is an automatic right that usually lasts for seventy years following the year in which the creator dies.

The owner of a copyright has the exclusive right to copy and share their work, subject to narrow checks and balances in law.

Who owns copyright?
This is usually the person who creates the work. As an undergraduate student, you own copyright in your own intellectual creations. The copyright in teaching materials that have been created at The University of Sheffield is owned by the University.

Copyright at Sheffield
University of Sheffield material includes but is not limited to: presentations, lecturer notes, recordings of lectures. There is also copyright in other content that you will use during the course of your study, such as academic books and journal articles.

Your responsibilities as a student
Your use of third party copyright material must comply with UK law. Further information about this can be found at: www.sheffield.ac.uk/copyright.

Additionally, your reuse of material should be fair and considerate to creators. There is overlap between complying with copyright, and good academic practices such as referencing and attribution.

Unless permitted to do so, you must not copy and distribute material which you do not own. This includes sharing journal articles, and uploading TUoS material to external websites.

Further resources
Copyright infringement policy: https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/cics/copyright

Process for handling copyright complaints: https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/cics/copyright

Refencing: https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/library/idlt/referencing

Your rights and responsibilities: https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/ssid/ourcommitment/rights